raised our guns. The Hymandra, next moment his cane sang through the air, and there was one dead Hymandra. This incident pleased us. It ing our guns out all handy, we

and hastily retreated into our net-

to stake along the top. But we hadn't long to think. As the flames rose and the smoke be- over 100,000 as formerly. gan to rise from the still dewy stuff, a great rustling was apparent amid grass. A horrible hissing filled the air with an indescribable noise Then a heavy scent, not unlike next minute dozens of wriggling, crawling, black and yellow bodies We need not have bothered about the stone throwing to stir more up. low. I confess that I again felt dubious as to the results of the ad-

On they came. First one by one, then in threes, in bunches-in dozens. The leading ones caught sight of our little band. In a sec ond up went their heads, and at us they came, in a sort of ghastly follow-my-leader fashion. It was an unnerving sight. They had about sixty yards of open ground to cross before reaching the netting, and this army of hissing, sinuous bodies was exposed to two voileys from our breech loaders, which strewed a score of them in maimed, writhing, knotted heaps; but this never stopped the main army in the least. Then there ensued a horrible scene. We began quietly enough, but as the lust of battle and slaughter seized upon us it all became to me a sort of chaos, of rattling reports, fierce yells and curses, smoke and heat, as the flames from the burning jungle were wasted by the wind towards us; and over all that overpowering scent ot valerian. Forms of shouting men were see : dimly through the enveloping cloud striking at half invisible toes, as the fierce, distended jaws and quivering tongues of the horrible brutes came up above the netting; while the swish of the swinging canes, whistling through the air, was followed by a curious "thuck" as they hit the supple, firm, body

of the snake. At last, what with the heat from the burning jungle, our failing | road or trail in a shor time, but it strength, and the apparently end less number of the brutes, who landscape permanently. People were beginning to surround us en- | get lost in the sand storms, and tirely, it was getting too warm to often, when the storm subsides, hind our netting and to cut and run | they are bewildered and puzzled to a hill a hundred yards off, which in trying to locate their homes. had, a stony top and stood fairly The sand may not be as freezing high. I do not think I ever sprinted | cold as the snow, but it is far more so fast before. Ensconced on the injurious. It cuts and grinds the hill, we were able, whilst regaining face as it strikes it and performs breath, to watch what was happen- about the same operation as a sanding below in our deserted fort. blast. Men who have been lost The brutes were still swarming at out in the furious sand storms and the netting, striking it with their | members of the life saving patrol heads, and throwing themselves on | have returned home at night wit it with inconceivable fury. At last some actualty got over. Three pigs so that they resemble raw beef, burst out of the burning jungle, and, Even the glass windows of the mad with terror, dashed through | houses are so ground by the flying the swarming reptiles. We could sand that they have to be replaced see them being repeatedly bitten, often by new ones. After one heavy as they dashed along. The first storm it is almost impossible to one ran about a hundred yards, see through the glass. People now luckily in an entirely opposite di- shut the blinds of their houses rection to us, before he dropped; facing the wind during the sand the others only covered half the storms in order to save the glass. distance before they too went down. But it had apparently created a diversion, and off went the Hy- large enough to hold 7,000 persons. mandras on the line the pigs had It was founded in 1764, and at prestaken. We opened fire, and our ent takes in children at the rate of shot did tremendous execution, forty a day, or about 15,000 a year.

Opening regular lanes amongst There are about twenty-six physithem; and we blazed away volley | cians, and about 900 nurses. In

With tearful hisses, plainly audi- I this building.

ble to us, they swarmed like ants About seven o'clock we reached up its old walls. It was an unas high as a man, a lovely place and yellow. One great brute for snakes to hide in during the would get half way up and then slip heat of the day. Here we decided back, to be instantaeously bitten to make a start. That there were to death by his companions. It is plenty of them about, although as | a curious point about the Hymanyet we had seen none, was soon dras that, when inflamed with rage, proved by one of the Goorkhas, they bite and kill each other as who threw a stone at the trunk of readily as the common enemy. A a large fig tree close by. The crash second or two of their awful poison our ears, when instantly a black ors often devour the dead. By far and yellow thing slid to the the greater number killed this day ground, looked around for a mo- were poisoned by each other. We ment, and then, head up, with a waited and watched until there horrible hissing, went like an arrow seemed but a few left moving. straight for the man. The plucky They had won the fort and killed it in front of him and stood his Then we went to the netting, inside shoot. We had all instinctively brutes trying vainly to get out, These we quickly despatched by blinded with passion, made a great | the now red stained canes, and then spring, and struck the jacket with we set to work to collect the dead such force, that he actually dashed | and cut their heads off-no agreeit right into the man's face, nearly able task, and one by no means knocking him over as well. The free from danger, as some still had

a little lite left. The Insane of Russia. In the last number of the Russhowed the excellent stuff the fel- | sian journal, Arkhiv Psikhiatrii, low was made of. We had a sand. appears an interesting article by wich and a pull at our flasks, and Dr. Yakovenko, throwing much then began to make our arrange- light upon the present state of ments. My idea with the netting Russian lunatic asylums, and comwas to pitch it in a circle large paring the provisions now made enough to hold us all easily-stak- | by the zemstvos for dealing with ing it upright strongly; and then lunatics with the state of affairs beto fire some grass close by and fore the days of zemstvos, says the retreat into the citadel. The brutes | London Lancet. Like so many would be sure to go for us when other modern institutions and the fire drove them out, and we methods in Russia, the present would stand inside our ring fence, system dates from that great epoch and kill them as they tried to climb of reforms which included the it. The fence, by-the-bye, was to emancipation of the serts in 1861 have a barbed wire run along its | and the introduction of the system top. Half an hour sufficed to pre- of local self-government by zemspare all this on a nice little piece of twos in 1863 Before that period rising ground. Then, after collect- | the care of the insane in Russia was ing a lot of stones inside, and lay- in the hands of a governmental body known as the Prikaz, or min fired the long grass in the ravine, istry of social supervision (Prikaz obschichesivennago prizrienia). When the functions of this body ting. I confess some tremors seized me as, cane in hand, we passed over to the zemstvos, there waited whilst the Goorkhas flung was asylum accommodations in Russia for 1,167 patients; now the stones into the thickets and I lisnumber has grown to 9,050. Fortened for the crackling of the flames. But the ring fence made | merly the annual sum expended a splendid little fort-four feet on each patient was 90 rubles (about \$45), now it is 215 rubles high, staked with a strong upright (over \$105). Consequently the every three feet, the bottom well pegged, and with a thick piece of | total annual cost of the asylum heavily barbed wire run from stake | population of Russia is at the present time not far short of 2,000,-

ooo rubles, instead of only a little Great improvements have also been introduced in the methods of the strangely waving reeds and treating the insane. Forty years ago there was still a tendency to regard lunatics almost in the light of criminals, and to treat them as valerian, became apparent, and the | criminals rather than as unfortunate victims of disease. All this has now been altered. The chains appeared, gleaming in the fierce and ropes, cages and bars, handsunshine-dozens of ferocious cuffs and strait-waistcoats, which Hymandras! By Jove! we had were formerly found in every asyroused them with a vengeance. | lumin constant use, are now things of the past, and physical restraint is resorted to only in rare cases I had never seen or dreamed of so | where it is absolutely necessary. many snakes together, and as I In brief, the treatment of the insane glanced at the compressed lips of | in Russia is now conducted on the my companions and then at the same principles of science, comnetting, the barrier looked horribly | mon sense, and humanity as in other countries. But, writes Dr. Yakovenko, there is still a good deal to be done before the asylum accommodation in Russia can be regarded as adequate. He calculates that the number of insane persons in the governments under zemstvos rule is somewhere between 127,000 and 191,000. Consequently, at the present time only some 7 per cent. of the total num-

ber are now treated in asylums. Comparing Russia in this respect with other countries, he finds that in France the proportion of insane under control in asylums to the total number of insane is 40 per cent.; in Switzerland, 58 per cent.; in America, 66 per cent., and in Scotland it is as high as 83 per cent. The immediate aim of the zemstvos, the article concludes, should be at least to provide accommodation for such cases as absolutely require asylum treatment, and as these may be reckoned at about 20 per cent. of the whole, it follows that the present number of

available beds should be at least

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Moscow has a foundling hospital after volley until they got away. the period 1764-1864 the number The crumbling ruins of an anci- of children received was 468,560. ent hill fort stood near their way. Mothers desiring to take back Perhaps they thought their unseen their children can do so. On his enemies were concealed there; retreat from Moscow in 1812 Napo anyhow, they went at it like tigers. | leon gave special orders to spare

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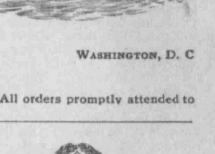
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